the Government of India under para 52 of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952.

(c) The total interest earning during the year 2001-2002 on the Employees Provident Fund was Rs. 9613.16 crore. The interest income is reinvested as per the extent pattern of investment.

(d) Upto 31.3.2002 the total unclaimed amount was Rs. 381.91 crore.

Expenditure on per I.P. Family Unit

2295. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to increase the ceiling of expenditure on the scheme per I.P. family unit per annum;

(b) if so, what is the present status; and

(c) by when a decision would be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The ESI Corporation has entrusted Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad to conduct a study & suggest a reasonable ceiling. The report is likely to be received by the end of February, 2003 and on its receipt, the same will be placed before the ESI Corporation for taking a decision on the same.

Identity Cards to ESI Beneficiaries

†2296. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Government order most of the people availing services of the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESI), who have been asked to get computerized identity cards within 15 days, have been deprived of the services since the first September, of this year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether it is possible to make ESI cards for lakhs of employees within 15 days;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the identity card making computerized machines of the corporation are out of order;

(d) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The ordinary Identity Cards issued to ESI beneficiaries are also honoured. The machines are working properly and the ESI Corporation is also taking the help of Private Agencies for preparation of Identity Cards. The Corporation has also issued instructions not to deny benefits for want of Photo Identity Cards.

Schemes/Programmes for labour

2297. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes/programmes announced by Government during the last six months;

(b) the manner in which these schemes/programmes are likely to benefit the labour class especially unskilled labourers;

(c) whether any target has been set under these schemes/ programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The Central Board of Trustees (EPF), which is a tripartite body, at its 158th meeting held on 22.10.2002 has, in principle, approved launching a housing scheme for EPF subscribers. A committee has been constituted consisting of representatives of employers, employees and senior officials of Employees Provident Fund Organisation under the Chairmanship of